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STATUTES

OF THE

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES.

(*Adopted immediately after the Act of Incorporation.*)

CHAPTER I.

Of Officers and the Manner of their Election.

1. There shall be a President, one Vice-President, ten Counsellors, two Secretaries, a Treasurer, a Vice-Treasurer, and a Keeper of the Cabinet: which officers shall be annually elected by written votes on the day next preceding the last Wednesday in May.

2. In order to this election, the President, or in his absence the Vice-President, or in the absence of the President and Vice-President, the senior Counsellor present shall take the chair, at three o'clock, P. M., and after the choice of three scrutineers by nomination, the ballot shall begin and remain open till five o'clock, at which time it shall be closed; upon which, should it appear in any instance that there is no choice, the balloting shall be renewed till a choice is made.

3. Each Elector shall deliver his balloting list, folded, to the President, and a scrutineer, sitting by the President with a list of the Members of the Academy present before him, shall mark the name of each person so delivering in his list.

4. When the ballot is closed, the scrutineer shall sort the votes, and report the same to the chair; after which, the presiding member shall declare the persons, who have the majority of votes, to be the officers respectively for the ensuing year.

5. If either of the Secretaries, the Treasurer, or the Keeper of the Cabinet die, resign, or be removed during the year, at the next meeting of the Academy the vacant office or offices shall be filled by written votes for the remaining part of the year.

6. At all elections of officers, if the suffrages should be equal, the decision shall be by lots prepared by the scrutineers, and drawn by the President.

7. Notwithstanding the election of officers be annual, the Academy reserve to themselves a power of removing any of them for neglect of their trust, or disobedience to the orders of the Academy.

8. A Messenger may be appointed or removed at any meeting of the Academy.

CHAPTER II.

Of the President and Vice-President.

1. The business of the President, or in his absence of the Vice-President, or in the absence of the President and Vice-President, then of the senior Counsellor present, shall be to preside in the meetings, and to regulate the debates of the Academy and Council; to state and put questions both in the affirmative and negative, according to motions regularly made; to call for reports and accounts from Committees and others; to preserve decorum; to summon all meetings of the Council, and all extraordinary meetings of the Academy, by advice of Council, upon any urgent occasions; and to execute or to see to the execution of the statutes of the Academy.

2. The President, or in his absence the Vice-President or presiding Counsellor, is empowered to draw upon the Treasurer for such sums of money as the Academy shall direct.

CHAPTER III.

Of the Council.

1. The Council shall have full authority, and it is their incumbent duty, from time to time, to originate such laws, statutes, orders and constitutions, as shall appear to them to be necessary or useful, according to their judgment and discretion, for the regulation, government, and promotion of the design of the Academy: all which laws, statutes, orders, and constitutions, shall be by them presented at a meeting of the Academy for the approbation of the Fellows; also to prepare such other matters as they may judge proper to be pursued by the Academy, in order to advance in the best manner the end of its institution. Nevertheless, no Fellow is hereby precluded from laying before the Academy such matters, or proposing such laws, as he shall think conducive to its benefit.

2. The Council, with the President and Treasurer, have power to make conclusive bargains for real or personal estate, for the benefit of the Academy, and to rent the same, and to give orders

concerning the improvement of the estate, goods, lands and revenues of the Academy, pursuant to the orders of the Academy.

3. Every deed or writing to which the Common Seal is to be affixed, shall be passed and sealed in Council, and signed by the President, and four, at the least, of the Council.

4. During the recesses of the Academy, the Council shall direct the Secretaries in such correspondence as they shall find expedient. The whole of which shall be laid before the Academy at its next meeting.

5. The Council shall order such papers and letters to be recorded as they shall think proper.

CHAPTER IV.

Of the Secretaries.

1. One of the Secretaries shall have the charge and custody of the Charter and Statute-Book, Journal-Books, Register-Books, and all literary papers belonging to the Academy; and also all letters, after they have been recorded, shall be kept by him on file. This Secretary, if possible, shall attend at all meetings of the Academy and Council, where, when the presiding member hath taken the chair, he shall read the orders and entries of the last precedent meeting, and shall take notes of the orders and transactions of the present meeting, to be entered by him in the respective books to which they relate. And when there shall be a competent number for making elections, he shall give notice of any candidates that shall stand propounded in order to election into the Academy.

2. The other Secretary shall have the charge and custody of the letter-books belonging to the Academy. He shall attend all meetings of the Academy and Council, and read all letters sent to the Academy, or to any member in his academical capacity, and draw up all letters to be written to any persons in the name of the Academy or Council (to be read and approved of in some meeting of either, respectively) except, for some particular cause and consideration, some other person or persons be appointed by the Academy or Council, to draught any such letter. He shall also enter all letters that shall be directed by the Academy or the Council, and when entered, the originals shall be delivered to the first-mentioned Secretary in order to their being filed.

3. At every meeting of the Academy, the Secretary, in whose custody the letter-books are, shall read any entries that the presiding member shall direct; and the Secretary, in whose custody the originals are, shall have with him, ready to produce, the file of all letters received since the last precedent meeting, that, if it be required, a comparison may be made.

4. Each Secretary shall deliver an attested copy of any transaction of the Academy, or paper belonging to his particular department, to any member, upon his producing a written licence from

the Council for that purpose; and to any other person, who shall produce a licence from the Academy signed by the presiding member, and in no other case whatever.

5. Whenever any copy shall be delivered by a Secretary, the person, upon receiving it, shall pay him such fees as the Academy may establish.

CHAPTER V.

Of the Treasurer and Vice-Treasurer.

1. The Treasurer and Vice-Treasurer shall give such security as the Academy shall require for the trust reposed in them respectively.

2. The Treasurer shall receive officially all monies or sums of money due or payable, and all bequests and donations that may be made to the Academy: and by order of the President or presiding member, shall pay such sums as the Academy or the Council shall direct, pursuant to the orders of the Academy, and shall make no disbursements of money otherwise, and shall keep a particular account of such orders, receipts, and payments.

3. All monies or sums of money whereof there shall not be present occasion for expending, or disposing to the use of the Academy, shall be put out to interest on such securities, or otherwise disposed of as the Academy, or the President and Council, pursuant to the orders of the Academy, shall direct.

4. The Treasurer's accounts shall be annually audited by a Committee appointed by the Academy for that purpose, in which appointment not more than one member of the Council shall be included.

5. In case of the death, resignation or removal of the Treasurer, the Vice-Treasurer is empowered to receive all books, papers, and effects, that were in the custody of the Treasurer, and which belong to the Academy, and to give receipts and discharges for the same in the name of the Academy. A duplicate of which signed by the Vice-Treasurer shall be filed with the President. The same process shall be observed upon the choice of a new Treasurer, and his acceptance of the office.

CHAPTER VI.

Of the Keeper of the Cabinet.

1. The Keeper of the Cabinet shall receive and have in his charge and custody, all productions of nature and works of art, that shall be purchased by, or presented to the Academy. He shall

arrange them according to their respective classes in natural history, philosophy, &c., at his own discretion; unless he be directed therein by a Committee of the Academy for that purpose. He shall also, in a book to be kept by him, register the various articles in classes corresponding to the arrangement of the articles themselves, with the description that may accompany the article, the donor's name, and the place whence taken; and the time when presented.

2. He shall attend the exhibitions of the articles in his custody, whenever the Academy shall meet; and no person shall be admitted to a view of them at any other time, unless in presence of the Keeper of the Cabinet, or some member appointed by the Council for that purpose.

3. He shall be Librarian to the Academy 'till they shall judge it expedient to appoint a distinct person to that office.

4. He shall give such security as the Academy shall judge proper for the faithful discharge of his office, and for surrendering the articles in his custody, whenever required by the Academy.

CHAPTER VII.

Of the Meetings of the Academy and Council.

1. There shall annually be four stated meetings of the Academy, viz., On the last Wednesday in *January*, and the day next preceding the last Wednesday in *May*, at *Boston*, and on the Wednesday next preceding the last Tuesday in *August*, and the second Wednesday in *November* at the University in *Cambridge*. Provided that in case the President shall at either of the said annual meetings, within the year of his first appointment, think proper to deliver, before the Academy, an inaugural oration or philosophical discourse, the place of such meeting may be at *Boston* or *Cambridge*, according as it shall be most convenient to him: of which he shall give notice at some preceding meeting of the Academy. — The Council shall also meet four times annually, viz., On the first Wednesday in *January*, and the first Wednesday in *May*, at *Boston;* and on the first Wednesday in *August*, and the third Wednesday in *October*, at *Cambridge:* unless it should by any means be unsafe for the Academy or Council to convene at either of the places above-mentioned, at the times specified. In which case the President, with the advice of the Council, may appoint the next stated meeting of the Academy, at any place within thirty miles distance from *Boston;* and the President in the above-mentioned case may appoint a meeting of the Council within the above said limits.

2. Extraordinary meetings of the Academy may be called at any time or place within thirty miles distance from *Boston*, by the President with the advice of the Council. And extraordinary meetings of the Council may be called by the President within the aforesaid limits, whenever he shall judge it necessary.

3. Eleven Fellows shall be present to constitute a meeting of the Academy, unless for the purposes of receiving communications, and adjourning, in which cases, seven shall be a quorum. And at any meeting of the Council the presiding member, with four others of the Council, are required to be present, in order to transact any business proper to the Council.

4. At all meetings of the Academy or Council the President, and Vice-President, or in their absence, the presiding member shall have a right to vote in common with the other members of either body respectively.

5. No person shall be introduced to any meeting of the Academy but by vote of the Academy, except *American* and foreign Ambassadors, members of Congress, members of the Supreme Legislative and Executive of the State of *Massachusetts* for the time being, and members of similar institutions with this Academy, who may be introduced by any member of the Academy.

6. All meetings of the Academy shall be advertised in two at least of the public news-papers, fourteen days previous to such meeting, by one of the Secretaries under direction of the President, or in his absence of the Vice-President, or presiding member of the Council.

7. All meetings of the Council shall be notified to the several members by billets from the President, or one of the Secretaries under direction of the President, or in his absence, of the Vice-President or presiding member of the Council, seven days, at least, before the time stated or proposed for a meeting.

CHAPTER VIII.

Of Fellows.

1. No person shall be elected a Fellow of the Academy, unless proposed and recommended by one or more of the members, nor nominated to the Academy until he has first been proposed to the Council, and they have consented to such nomination; and the name, place of abode, and addition of the person recommended, shall be delivered in, signed by the proposers, and read by one of the Secretaries. A fair copy of such paper, with the date when delivered, shall be hung up in the room, where the Academy shall from time to time meet, on which the Candidates may be balloted for at the next, or some succeeding meeting. And if three-fourths of the Fellows then present shall ballot in his favor, he shall be a member.

2. Each Fellow residing in the State of *Massachusetts*, shall be subject to an annual payment of *Spanish* milled dollars in specie, or an equivalent in bills of the current exchange. Fellows without the State shall be subject to no other annual payment, than they voluntarily consent to.

CHAPTER IX.

Of Proceedings on Literary Performances.

1. The Academy will never give their judgment, or opinion, upon any literary performance presented to them, but allow it to rest upon its own merit, and the credit of its author.

CHAPTER X.

Of Oaths.

1. The President, Vice-President, Counsellors, Secretaries, Treasurer, Vice-Treasurer, and Keeper of the Cabinet, shall each take the following oath, *mutatis mutandis:*

I A. B. *elected to the office of* *in the* American Academy of Arts and Sciences, *do swear, that I will, according to my best judgment and discretion, faithfully discharge the duties of the trust reposed in me.*

So help me GOD.